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Speaker Nancy Pelosi
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

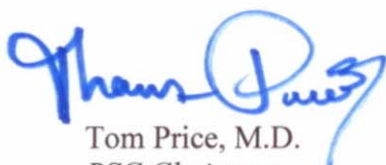
It is the tradition of the House to consider each regular appropriations bill under an open rule. For example, during the 109th Congress, the last Congress during which Republicans held the majority in the House, all regular appropriations bills (except Legislative Branch) came to the House floor under an open rule.

However, recent history under Democratic control raises concerns that FY2010 appropriations bills may be brought to the House floor without fully open rules. For example, last year the Military Construction/Veterans Affairs appropriations bill came to the House floor with a *Congressional Record* pre-printing requirement, shutting down Members' ability to think of and offer new amendments during floor debate. Further, the consolidated security appropriations bill came to the House floor under a closed rule, preventing amendments altogether. There were a record-total of 64 closed rules in the 110th Congress, and there have already been seven closed rules this year—including one for the \$410 billion FY2009 omnibus appropriations bill.

In the Democrat "New Direction for America" document you released at the start of the 110th Congress, you committed the House to a "fair and open process for amendments." We strongly urge you, in the name of bipartisan comity in the House, and thoughtful, transparent legislating on behalf of the American people, to bring each fiscal year 2010 appropriations bill to the House floor under an open rule without *Congressional Record* pre-printing requirements.

We appreciate your consideration.

Yours respectfully,



Tom Price, M.D.
RSC Chairman



Jim Jordan
RSC Budget & Spending
Taskforce Chairman

cc: Rep. Louise Slaughter, Chairwoman, House Committee on Rules